

down, many of them from \$1.40, \$1.50, to 70 cents, you're cutting them in half. I think that is a very, very good compromise. I would like to see them so that they wouldn't be affected. Their budgets, basically for small towns, are very low. If you look at what a lot of budgets are in many of our small towns, they're all under \$100,000 basically, because they don't have anything there. They buy used equipment, they may have one person on the street. The county takes care of the police protection. But they're a place that people live, and they're important to this state. And I think if you're going to cut their budget to 45 cents, you're basically going to dry up many of these...these small towns. I don't see what this...this LB 1114 is really going to do to cut property taxes. All you're going to do is to hurt many of our small towns. Of all of the entities, once again, I think small towns will be hurt more than anybody because the way that they're actually made up with their...the people involved, the people that live there, and the very low budgets that they currently have. So the amendment that Senator Maurstad has that goes to 70 cents for these small towns will still cut their budgets in half from where they're at right now, for many of our small towns. I think this is a very good compromise. I think it's something that we should do. I don't think we have to worry about going down the road, that schools are going to want the same thing. The Legislature has always been good to schools in this state, I think. We've been fair to schools. Sure, they have to skimp a little bit, but we haven't left the schools where they can't survive. They've basically been able to survive. LB 1114 in its current form though...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: ...would be real hard for any small school...or small town to survive. They just will not do it because they're not structured that way. Their...the make-up of our small towns are such that the people in them are happy to live there, but the young ones...anybody that's young will not stay there, so I would hope that you would approve the Maurstad amendment. It's a good compromise. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the